

## Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SP-03 AF-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 /061 W

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P R 261255Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1581

INFO SECDEF

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, IO, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH SHIP IN DISTRESS NEAR DIEGO GARCIA

1. ON JUNE 25, HINTON OF FCO INDIAN OCEAN DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY THAT A BRITISH MERCHANT SHIP, THE SOVEREIGN GRACE, OF CYPRUS REGISTRY WAS IN DIFFICULTY NEAR DIEGO GARCIA AND THAT HMG HAD AUTHORIZED THE SHIP TO ENTER THE HARBOR AT DIEGO GARCIA. THE PROBLEM WITH THE SHIP WAS A LEAK IN ONE OF THE DEEP TANKS AND THE PUMP WHICH WOULD BE USED TO EMPTY THE TANK WAS BROKEN.

2. WE PASSED ABOVE INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT (PM/ISO) BY TELEPHONE ON JUNE 25. THIS MESSAGE IS TO CONFIRM AND TO RAISE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PROBLEM.

3. HINTON HAS NOW ASKED IF THE US COULD FACILITATE THE TRAVEL OF ONE OF THE CHIEF TECHNICIANS OF THE SHIPPING LINE TO DIEGO GARCIA TO INSPECT THE DAMAGE TO THE SHIP. THE TECHNICIAN IS PRESENTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA BUT WOULD TRAVEL BY COMMERCIAL MEANS TO THAILAND TO CATCH THE LOGISTICS FLIGHT TO DIEGO GARCIA IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED. THE FCO HAS ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) COULD THE TECHNICIAN BE ACCOMMODATED ON A USAF FLIGHT TO DIEGO GARCIA?

B) IF SO, WHAT WOULD BE THE EARLIEST DEPARTURE DATE

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FROM THAILAND? AND THE RETURN SCHEDULE?

C) HOW WOULD SUCH TRAVEL HAVE TO BE FUNDED?

4. REQUEST ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED PARA 3  
SOONEST.

ANNENBERG

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, CONSULTANTS, SOVEREIGN GRACE, RESCUE OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LONDON07998  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740168-0450  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRITISH SHIP IN DISTRESS NEAR DIEGO GARCIA  
**TAGS:** MARR, OCLR, IO, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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